

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated November 4, 2008. Claims 1, 5, 13, 16 to 19, 24, 25, 38 to 41, 46, and 49 have been amended. Claims 23 and 45 have been canceled. No new matter is added by these amendments. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 to cover the cost of the any fees due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 5, 11 to 17, 19, 25 to 29, 33 to 39, and 41 under U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,758,473 to Seelig ("Seelig"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. However, since the Office Action indicated that Claims 23 and 24 and Claims 45 and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, to advance prosecution of this case, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 25 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 23 and 45, respectively.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1 and 25 and the claims depending from amended independent Claims 1 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 6, 20, 30, 40, and 42 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seelig in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,604,740 to Singer. Applicant respectfully submits that the patentability of amended independent Claims 1 and 25 renders these rejections moot.

The Office Action rejected Claims 47 to 48 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seelig. Applicant respectfully submits that the patentability of amended independent Claims 1 and 25 renders these rejections moot.

The Office Action rejected Claims 6, 20, 30, 40, and 42 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seelig in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,257,979 to Walker ("Walker"). Applicant respectfully submits that the patentability of amended independent Claims 1 and 25 renders these rejections moot.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY Adam H. Masia

Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
Customer No. 29159
(312) 807-4284

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